

# ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 27th December 1879.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Monthly.				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī" ... ..	Calcutta	2,100	Kartik, 1286 B.S.
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly	175	
3	"Sansodhinī" ... ..	Chittagong	600	
Fortnightly.				
4	"Purva Pratidhwani" ... ..	Ditto	.....	14th December 1879.
5	"Rajshahye Samvād" ... ..	Rajshahye	31	
Weekly.				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..	Calcutta	700	16th December 1879.
7	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensingh	671	16th ditto.
8	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Calcutta	2,000	16th ditto.
9	"Bardwān Sanjivani" ... ..	Bardwān	296	
10	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca	350	19th ditto.
11	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly	745	
12	"Hindu Hitaishinī" ... ..	Dacca	300	20th ditto.
13	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	17th ditto.
14	"Howrah Hitakari" ... ..	Bethar, Howrah	400	19th ditto.
15	"Medinī" ... ..	Midnapore	250	
16	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Berhampore	.....	22nd ditto.
17	"Navavibhākar" ... ..	Calcutta	850	
18	"Pratikār" ... ..	Berhampore	275	21st ditto.
19	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kākinīā, Rangpore	250	
20	"Sādhārani" ... ..	Chinsurah	500	15th and 22nd December 1879.
21	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta	500	
22	"Samālochak" ... ..	Ditto	1,000	19th December 1879.
23	"Samāchār Sār" ... ..	Allahabad	350	20th ditto.
24	"Sanjivani" ... ..	Mymensingh	260	
25	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Calcutta	4,000	20th ditto.
26	"Shārad Kaumudī" ... ..	Bhowanipore	300	
Tri-weekly.				
27	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
Daily.				
28	"Samvād Prabhākar" ... ..	Ditto	700	15th to 19th, and 20th December 1879.
29	"Samvād Pūrnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto	300	19th to 20th, and 22nd ditto.
30	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto	625	15th to 22nd ditto.
31	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto	500	17th to 20th ditto.
32	"Prabhātī" ... ..	Ditto	.....	15th to 19th, and 22nd ditto.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
Weekly.				
33	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore	487	12th December 1879.
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
Weekly.				
34	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta	365	20th ditto.
ENGLISH, BENGALI, AND HINDI.				
Daily.				
35	"Byāpārī;" or, The Trader ... ..	Ditto	.....	22nd and 23rd December 1879.
HINDI.				
Weekly.				
36	"Behār Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore, Patna	500	3rd and 17th December 1879.
37	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	500	11th and 18th ditto.
38	"Jagat Mitra" ... ..	Ditto	157	15th ditto.
39	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..	Ditto	200	
PERSIAN.				
Weekly.				
40	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Ditto	250	



## POLITICAL.

SAHACHAR,  
December 15th, 1879.

Rising in Cabul.

WE extract the following observations from an article in the *Sahachar*, of the 15th December :—Lord Lytton must by this time have been convinced of the blunder he committed when he stopped all communications to the newspapers. General Roberts had from the first shown a coldness to all newspaper correspondents. Considering that the Afghan people do not read newspapers or telegrams, both the General and Government might have derived much benefit from the labours of these correspondents, and might have been able to rectify errors, if any had been pointed out. The authorities, however, have judged otherwise, and are doing all things in secret and just as they please; thus leading to great blunders and fearful waste. Meanwhile, various rumours are afloat in the bazars. The Press Commissioner has no independence, and has to publish whatever he is directed by his masters to publish, and in the manner approved of by them. It thus happens that, for some days past, we have felt uneasy on account of the troops under the command of General Roberts, who has not received any proper assistance ever since he entered Cabul. The operations under General Bright have been conducted in such a way that, if a European General had commanded the forces of the enemy, the British army at Cabul would have been annihilated. Far from receiving any assistance, General Roberts was rather obliged to spare a detachment of his own troops to rescue the Sikhs in the Shutargardan. Owing to the protests made in the newspapers, the command of the Cabul field force has indeed been given to General Roberts, but General Stewart still retains an independent command in Candahar. Neither officers and troops, nor the public, have the least confidence in this inefficient officer, who, in his turn, does not place any in the troops under his orders. It is the height of folly to allow such a General to remain in command when active operations are going on; still, the public note with surprise, he is not yet removed from Southern Afghanistan. Everybody, of course, expects that, in the waging of war, the Commander-in-Chief will be consulted; but it would seem as though Lord Lytton had resolved that nothing done in the time of the present Commander-in-Chief should prove successful. The Viceroy has failed in everything he has ever undertaken, and yet he will meddle. The operations in Afghanistan are being conducted under his instructions, and not directed by Sir F. Haines. What wonder, therefore, that General Roberts is placed in a critical position?

The writer thus concludes :—General Roberts has occupied a strongly intrenched position with the 7,000 troops under his command. Not to speak of the Afghans, there is hardly any force in the world which could expel them from their present position. There is therefore no cause for surprise that the Afghans have not been successful in doing this. The conclusion, however, is unavoidable that the leaders of the Afghan army are not fools, and that General Roberts and his small army are besieged by the enemy. The winter is severe, while sufficient provisions have not yet been collected. The Afghans are all hostile to the British, and are armed. Those that were friendly have been seized with fear. The situation is not certainly hopeful. The British politicians seem determined not to see that the days of small armies have gone by. There will be a stout opposition offered, if the Afghans have any Russian officers among them—a contingency which is highly probable. Well, therefore, may it be asked :—Is Lord Lytton's Government prepared for such an event? Who, again, will pay for it all—India or England? The position of General Roberts is similar to that of the British army of 1841. Of course, both the General and his troops in the present instance are men of different mettle; still, what with the snow



and what with lack of officers, we fear the native troops will soon lose their efficiency. The public do not possess any information respecting the strength of the enemy, their leaders, or their doings. As a ruler, Lord Lytton is both weak and inefficient; still he will not take the public into his confidence. We are decidedly of opinion that affairs have come to a pass which urgently requires the guidance of an able Viceroy. General Roberts is, of course, a courageous and dashing officer; but the public doubt whether he possesses the qualities which are essential to true generalship. He who does not know the strength of the enemy cannot fulfil one of the essential conditions of war.

2. We give below the substance of a long article in the same paper, headed "A second Mahatab Chand." A second Mahatab Chand has appeared in the person of the young Maharajah of Durbhunga.

Subscriptions in aid of the troops engaged in the Afghan war.

SAHACHAR,  
December 15th, 1879.

The first, His Highness of Burdwan, was a devoted admirer of the European community; and the sole object of his life was to find out how he could please them. We doubt whether, during his long career, he ever spent two thousand rupees in aid of any project in which that community was not interested. The second Mahatab Chand, as we have styled him, recently held a meeting in which subscriptions were raised to the amount of 60,000 rupees for the relief of the families of those killed in the Afghan war, and the purchase of warm clothing for the troops still engaged in it. Lord Lytton's Government will doubtless report this to the Ministry; and, as a consequence, higher honors and eulogiums will be lavished upon the young prince. A similar meeting was recently held in Cawnpore, at which an address was presented to that model Governor, Sir George Couper. The promoters of the movement will, of course, be duly honored. The public would not be surprised if, during the administration of the present Viceroy, the chief cook of his household were someday knighted and received the title of Sir Abdul Rahaman, Khán Bahadur, K.C.S.I.

We do not say that it is improper to subscribe in aid of the children of those killed in the war, provided you have the requisite means. But it is certainly ridiculous to set such a movement on foot simply because it is a common one in Europe. In Europe the highest pitch of civilization has been reached, while this country cannot yet boast of a properly-conducted school of arts. Dr. Sarkár's scheme of a science association, for example, is suffering from lack of funds. Compared with the wealthy of Europe, it would not fall much short of truth if it were said that India does not contain one wealthy person. Is there one in this country who might compare in point of wealth with the Duke of Sutherland? It is really ridiculous to find that the Maharajah of Durbhunga should attempt a task which is far beyond his means. But should we not be liberal according to our means? We are of opinion that, if the war were one between Russia and England, such an instance of liberality might appear becoming. But did the Afghans invade India? Or was it not the fact that, swayed by greed, the Premier invaded the dominions of a poor and innocent Prince? In order that he might make a parade of England's prestige, Lord Beaconsfield resolved upon extending the frontiers of the Indian Empire. The affair at Ali Musjid was but a pretence. Even if Shere Ali had at the outset given Major Cavagnari permission to visit Cabul, what would have been the consequence? Why, the Ameer would have been plainly told to part with a portion of his territories and content himself with occupying the position of a tributary Prince! He would never have submitted to these conditions, and war would have been rendered unavoidable.

India has not the least interest in this war; on the contrary, she will have to meet the expense and submit to taxation. Afghanistan will, in all probability, become a burden upon India, with the result of saddling her



with additional taxation and increasing the poverty of her people. The writer here administers a severe reproof to the young and inexperienced Maharajah of Durbhunga for the ill-advised part he took in the meeting referred to—a fact which Government will doubtless use to their advantage by showing that the people of India and one of the leading zemindars of Bengal have approved of the present war in Afghanistan. The country, remarks the Editor, protests against the Afghan war, and the masquerade which is being enacted by these men at Cawnpore and Durbhunga. The “scientific frontier” is a meaningless phrase; the real “scientific frontier” is in the loyal hearts of the people.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
December 22nd, 1879.

3. The *Navavibhakar* of the 22nd December, gives a short account of Yakub's life, and believes that, as far as the late massacres in Cabul were concerned, he was but really helpless in the hands of the insurgents. The real blame of the murder of Cavagnari and his escort ought to attach to those who, disregarding the warnings of Dost Mahomed and others, fully acquainted with Afghan character, forced a weakly attended embassy upon him. Yakub was at the time of the treaty, it must also be understood, greatly perplexed with his position in consequence of internal dissensions and foreign invasion. That he did not mean treachery may be gathered from the fact that the massacre took place before winter, although winter would have considerably facilitated the work, if that had been really his intention. As it is, Yakub is an unfortunate young man.

#### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

BEHAR BANDHU,  
December 3rd, 1879.

4. In continuation of the remarks made on the subject of the proposed Rent Bill, in its issues of the 19th and 26th November last, the *Behar Bandhu*, of the 3rd December, makes the following observations :—A great deal of trouble is occasioned to the zemindars by the present system under which deposits of rents are made by tenants in the collectorate. To realize these the former are put to both expense and inconvenience. The writer therefore suggests that, whenever such deposits are made by any tenant, Government should place the amount to the credit of the landlord to whom it is due, and deduct it from the sum for which the latter may be liable on account of the revenue demand. To prevent forgery and dishonesty on the part of the amlah and putwaris, receipts and other papers of the zemindar's *sherista* should all be on printed forms; and the legislature would do a great deal in this direction if, in the new Bill, it inserted a provision requiring that the zemindar should have the counterfoil receipt which is kept in his *sherista* signed by the tenant who has paid his rent. It should further be required that the printed *jama-wasil-vaki* papers should be paged and bound in volumes, and contain a note on every page, stating the number of copies which has been struck off at one time.

MURSHIDABAD  
PRATINIDHI,  
December 12th, 1879.

5. The *Moorshedabad Patrika*, of the 12th December, remarks that the poverty of this country is in a great measure due to the errors of the Government. One of these was recently committed by Sir John Strachey when he expressed his conviction that a person possessing an income of Rs. 100 a year in this country is far removed from poverty. Sir John even went further, and remarked that those who might maintain a different view were entirely ignorant of the true condition of the people. It should be considered that rice was actually selling at Rs. 4 a maund when this wise (?) statement was made by the Finance Minister. The writer here gives a list of necessary expenses which must be incurred by a person possessed of the income in question, and shows that they are so large as, to meet them, he



must put himself and his family on half or insufficient rations. It is not at all clear how Sir John Strachey could arrive at the conclusion he has expressed, and which has taken in even the Viceroy. A Government which mistakes the distress of the people for affluence, who covets the means of their subsistence, and takes note of their income, becomes, as our *Shástras* have it, a cause of their poverty.

6. We make the following extracts from an article in the same paper, headed "Why again has there been a Durbar?" :—The Viceroy was so pleased with the success of the first Durbar at Delhi, that he has recently tried a repetition of it at the same place. Truth to tell, the love of holding durbars has almost become a disease with Government. On the recent occasion at Delhi, Lord Lytton paraded his own power and greatness and secured a congratulatory address from the inhabitants. Since he came to India he has not done anything which could bring him fame in his native land, where already the public are discussing the subject of discontent among the people of this country. Was not, then, the object of the Durbar to discredit his opponents in England by showing that those whom they had represented as dissatisfied were the very persons who had voted him an address?

MURSHIDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
December 12th, 1879.

His Excellency referred to the patience and loyalty manifested by the people when they were passing through the crisis of a famine. Now, if these words were uttered with anything like sincerity, and if His Excellency really believes what he has expressed, it is probable that he has been by this time convinced that by expending the funds obtained by sucking dry their life-blood in a war in which India does not possess the least interest, and which was but a blunder on the part of the authorities, a greater distress is being caused to them than that arising from famine. Reference is then made to the celebration of an Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, the formation of a civil service for natives, and lastly, to the creation of a famine fund. The observations made by the writer on these heads are similar to those noticed in previous reports. The article concludes with the question, What was the necessity of a Durbar? If the object was to secure an address, a Durbar was not necessary. It has become customary with the people of this country to vote addresses to retiring governors, and Lord Lytton also might have obtained one without incurring the trouble of a Durbar.

7. The *Sahachar*, of the 15th December, is thankful that the person who fired at his Excellency is an East Indian. Had he been a native of this country, it is almost certain that, at least in Calcutta, the martial law would have been proclaimed. Providence has saved us!

SAHACHAR,  
December 15th, 1879.

8. How shall we, exclaims the *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 16th December, sing the praises of Lord Lytton in the manner in which he has sung his own at Delhi? How could we lavish eulogiums upon a ruler who, after confessing that the country is now in a prosperous condition, proceeds the very next moment to saddle it with heavy taxation? What was the state of the country when Lord Northbrook repealed the Income Tax? Was it better than now? With what heart shall we blow his trumpet who, regardless of the poverty of the people, seeks to diffuse contentment by means of honied speeches? It is idle to protest against the Income Tax when once it has been determined upon by the rulers. Before introducing the Bill in the Legislative Council, Sir John Strachey must have obtained the assent of the Secretary of State; still it is not meet that members of the Council should remain silent. A united and strong protest, if made at this time, although it may not be immediately successful, will doubtless be of much use under

BHARAT MIHIR,  
December 16th, 1879.



a succeeding administration. The Income Tax now to be imposed threatens to be a permanent measure; thus raising the suspicion that it is intended to take the place of some duty which is to be abolished. It is probable that the complete abolition of the import and the salt duties has been determined upon.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
December 16th, 1879.

9. In an article on the lecture recently delivered in Edinburgh by Dr. Hunter, on Indian affairs, the same paper makes observations exactly corresponding with those contained in a recent issue of the *Calcutta Statesman*.

BHARAT MIHIR.

10. The same paper remarks:—Whatever difference of opinion we may have regarding the administration of Lord Lytton, we do not cherish the least disrespect for his person. Hence it is that we are glad to hear that the attempt recently made on his life, while His Excellency was driving from Howrah to Government House, was not successful. Happily for the nation, the would-be murderer was neither a Hindu nor Mahomedan. He was an East Indian—one of the class which has consistently received many favours at his hands.

Further on it is remarked that Nihilism has not yet obtained any followers in this country. In spite of the Arms Act, the Press Act, and the taxation laws, there is not one among the people who would have any fears regarding Lord Lytton's life. In Europe such rigorous administration would have led to the formation of not a few sects. The people of no other country, except India, whose inhabitants are noted for their phlegmatic disposition, would have borne the oppressions connected with the License Tax with patience. This tax again is now being enhanced. Lord Lytton has not felt for the people; but still they are glad that the would-be assassin missed his aim.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
December 16th, 1879.

11. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 16th December, remarks that by ordering a reduction of the Durga Puja holidays Government has caused a profound disappointment to the people of Bengal, who spend this time in visiting their homes and friends. This is the season of family meetings, when the over-worked Bengali forgets the cares of his existence in innocent pleasures. Unhappily, the god of wealth is now more powerful than the goddess Durga. One thing is clear from the action of Government in the matter of these holidays. The British Government has now been for more than a century in India, and has made itself acquainted with the material condition of its people. But it has failed to understand their feelings. Government apparently is not aware that it was the people of this country to gratify whom Ráma was obliged to send his beloved Sítá into exile.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

12. After referring in sarcastic terms to the attitude of admiration which the British Indian Association always affects towards Government, and the treatment which the members experienced at the hands of Lord Lytton when they waited in deputation upon His Excellency the last time, the same paper hits upon the idea of presenting him an address of congratulation. The address should this time be given by the citizens of Calcutta through Rev. Dr. K. M. Banerjee and the Editor of the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, as both Maharajah Jatindra Mohan Tagore and the Editor of the *Hindu Patriot* are reported to be afraid to approach the Viceroy. After thus settling the preliminaries, the writer mentions the points which ought to be set forth in the address. These are (1) the Afghan war and its consequences. The latter may be briefly stated to be (a) the diversion of the channel of wealth between India and England. Formerly wealth flowed from this country to England, but, since the outbreak of the war against Afghanistan, money



has come to India from the British exchequer; and (b) the diversion of the attention of the rulers from domestic affairs to affairs in Afghanistan. This also is likely to be beneficial, for the natives of the country regard the eyes of Government to be evil. (2) The Press Act and the Arms Act. By enacting them Government has given the Russians to understand that the people hate British rule while the authorities do not trust them. Now, this will make the Russians more eager than ever to invade India; and an invasion of the country by that people is calculated to be beneficial to natives. For then only will Government allow the people to use arms and write freely in the press. (3) The sacrifice of the revenues of India to benefit the merchants of Manchester. The License Tax and the Income Tax, which have been devised to make good the loss occasioned to the revenues by this means, have so dissatisfied the people that they will gradually resolve upon discontinuing the use of Manchester goods, or, succeeding in enlisting the sympathy of the European community, their agitations will become so powerful that at length Government will be obliged to give up its policy of conciliating the Lancashire merchants at their expense. (4) The License Tax and the Income Tax. By imposing them Government has made the European community and their exponents in the press friendly to natives. (5) The formation of a close civil service for natives. This will disabuse them of the false notions they have hitherto maintained on this subject, and lead them no longer to place their faith in Government. (6) The treatment of the members of the British Indian Association has shewn the people that it is idle to flatter Government until they have secured any real political power.

13. The *Sādhārānī*, of the 21st December, remarks that it was not to

SADHARANI,  
December 21st, 1979.

Dr. Hunter's Lecture in Edinburgh. be expected that a paid servant of the Government would have the requisite moral courage to freely and publicly point out the defects of the present administration. An Englishman is always grateful to his salt. It is therefore no wonder that Dr. Hunter has resorted to special pleading and to the praising of Government. Belonging to the official class in India, it is his interest to overlook faults in the administration which, if exposed, would in some measure even reflect on himself. We do not think that the British public will be taken in by his statements. But why is our Government so eager to blow its own trumpet? The people of this country regard this as a sign of worthlessness, and hold it to be a sin. The present administration, however, has been obliged to employ Dr. Hunter in singing their praises with a view to counteract the powerful agitations made by the liberal leaders on Indian questions.

Regarding the benefits conferred upon the people by the introduction of British rule, the writer's remarks may thus be summarised:—Of what use are railways and telegraph, if the people continue to be pinched with hunger? Government is indeed promoting education; but of what use would be Milton's *Paradise Lost*, or Shakspeare's *Macbeth*, or the knowledge of the Laws of Gravitation, if the recipient of this education could not procure the means of livelihood? Then, again, compared with population, is it not a handful who are being educated? Formerly the Mahrattas and the Pindaris plundered the country, but now the license tax peons do this work. As to the decrease of crime, why, in this town of Chinsurah robberies are being committed even in broad day-light? Regarding the suppression of famines, the statements made by the Doctor are equally groundless. He apparently forgot to note the number of deaths from starvation which took place during the Orissa famine and the recent famine in Madras. It does not appear that Government acts with a view to benefit the people. The advent of the British power in India has imparted a glitter to its exterior, but all is dark within. The people have not been able to learn anything.



NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
December 22nd, 1879.

14. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 22nd December, while making similar observations on this subject, remarks that Dr. Hunter must be regarded as an enemy of this country, inasmuch as he has sought to conceal its true condition from the British public. The writer strongly condemns the censure passed by the lecturer on past Hindu administrations of India, and characterizes his assertions in this connection as being simply inaccurate. While fervently desiring the continuance of British rule in this country, which has done so much for the people, the Editor would at the same time point out the retrograde policy of the present administration, which is causing them much hardship. The Press Act, the Arms Act, the Presidency Magistrates' Act, and the whole fiscal policy of Lord Lytton's Government are then referred to.

#### EDUCATION.

SAHACHAR.  
December 15th, 1879.

15. The *Sahachar*, of the 15th December, contains a long article on the necessity of imparting moral instruction in the schools. As it is, the intellect of the boys is all that is taken care of, and is sought to be developed, while the moral faculties remain wholly neglected. The result is really deplorable. Reference is here made to the recent case tried in Krishnaghur, in which two boys were convicted of cheating the University examiners. In conclusion, Government is asked to make moral instruction a part of the education imparted in the schools.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 27th December 1879.*







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